

2018-2019 Enrollment and Admissions Policy Committee (EAPC)

Final Report

March 18, 2019

EAPC Members:

Rick Arrowood (Chair, CPS)
Veronica Godoy Carter (COS)
Kristin Greenwood (BCHS)
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Susan Powers-Lee, SAC liaison

2018-2019 EAPC Charges:

- 1) The EAPC shall continue to monitor the policies and practices of Enrollment Management (EM) and investigate the impact they have on undergraduate and graduate admissions at each college/school.

Covered in the 2/27/19 presentation to the Faculty Senate by Sundar Kumarasamy

- 2) In Spring 2019, the EAPC shall collaborate with the Vice President for Enrollment Management to lead the discussion in the Faculty Senate of the strategies and processes that shape the undergraduate student cohort, including follow up on the implementation of the 2016-2017 EAPC Senate resolutions.

Covered in the 2/27/19 presentation to the Faculty Senate by Sundar Kumarasamy

- 3) The EAPC shall work with EM and the colleges to monitor the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Senate resolutions intended to enhance the combined major experience.

Process: EAPC Members conducted focus group sessions with the Academic Advising Team (in-person on 12/7/18 and 2/1/19) and solicited comments by email. The questions and responses are presented below:

- A. Are students who pursue combined majors provided access to academic and co-op advisors and to ongoing communication regarding opportunities for both areas of their combined degrees? If so, what are some examples?

Findings: The Committee found some inconsistency among the colleges for allocation of academic advising resources. When combined majors were included in both “parent” units, all Colleges were identified to have higher advising ratios than recommended by NACADA standards. There does not appear to be any formal process or recommendations for best practice for academic advising on combined majors. Additionally, there is a need to specifically determine recommended student-to-advisor ratios for combined majors. These resources tend to be provided more by the “home college.” Cross-college combined majors presents a challenge because there are no shared student records between the home college and the other

participating college. Regarding Co-Op, the Committee found that students generally have a choice to work with coordinators from either part of the combined major. However, the Committee suggests that further inquiry be conducted to assess the actual workload and its distribution between the participating colleges.

- B. When students have a choice of “home college” for combined degrees is clear communication provided about the distinctions between services and opportunities in the participating colleges?

Findings: The Committee found that Academic Advising is currently able to partially provide this information to students as part of the advising process. However, the Academic Advising team does encourage students to reach out directly to their home-college advisor and when appropriate, to the other participating college advising team. How communication occurs between Colleges in terms of advising does not appear to have a uniform format. We learned that the current FACT system only allows for one advisor per student record. This means that only the primary advisor receives FACT reports, while secondary advisors do not receive prompts.

- C. What are the thoughts of Academic Advisors on using a software platform (e.g., DegreeWorks, already in use by CPS) that permits students to create, save multi-year course planning and “what if” scenarios, allowing access to these plans across Colleges by Academic Advisors, Co-Op Advisors, and faculty members?

Findings: The Academic Advising team preferred DegreeWorks (as utilized at previous institutions) to the current version of DARS utilized at Northeastern. Additionally, the Academic Advising team noted that multi-year planning might be difficult and would require longer-term planning. The Committee suggests moving to a two year course catalog.

1st EAPC Resolution

Whereas Northeastern students increasingly customize their plans of study, including a dramatic increase in combined major enrollments,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Senate Agenda Committee work with the Provost’s office to establish a University-wide working group, with membership drawn from the Academic Advisors, Associate Deans, Office of the Registrar and ITS, to be charged with recommending a software platform (e.g., DegreeWorks, already in use by CPS or an expansion of the DARS system currently in use in the other colleges) be implemented that permits students to create, visualize and save multi-year course planning and “what if” scenarios, allowing access to these plans across Colleges by academic advisors, co-op advisors, and faculty mentors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That this working group also (1) identify mechanisms to enhance FACT/Salesforce for use in combined majors and (2) design a resource that allows Academic Advisors for combined majors to be adequately trained in advising practices in partner colleges.

2nd EAPC Resolution

Whereas Northeastern students increasingly customize their plans of study, including a dramatic increase in combined major enrollments,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Senate recommends that the Provost's Office and the College Deans (1) consider providing a two-year course schedule to facilitate longer-term planning and (2) review best practices for student-to-advisor ratios.

- D. Are there other issues that the EAPC should be aware of that relate to Academic Advising?

Findings: There was some concern about managing how information can be provided to staff, faculty, and students at Welcome Days, Open Houses, and new Student Orientations given the number of overlapping programs and limited advising resources.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Advising Network organize a session to share best practices on arranging these events most effectively for combined majors.

- 4) The EAPC shall collaborate with the Provost's Office to map potential overlap among graduate programs and, if warranted, make recommendations for improving current policies and practices.

Process: The Committee conducted individual phone sessions with Sara Wadia-Fascetti and Phil He and also met with the Graduate Studies Committee of Associate Deans of the Colleges.

Findings: The Graduate Studies Committee vets all proposals prior to the Graduate Council review and approval and is relied upon to resolve potential overlaps.